

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 197340

17

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01

OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-07 IO-10

EUR-12 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /089 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:AEGRIFIN:MRC

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

NEA/MR DUBS

----- 122946

O R 192333Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197340

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR CALLS ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ATHERTON

REF: DACCA 4020

1. SUMMARY. BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR HOSSAIN ALI CALLED ON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON TUESDAY, AUGUST 19 AT HIS
INITIATIVE. AMBASSADOR ALI PRESENTED REASONS FOR COUP,
EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL REGRET AT DEATH OF MUJIB, AND
REPORTED NEW BDG'S INTENTION TO CARRY ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
ALONG THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNMENT, WITH A NEW EMPHASIS
ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL THE SUPERPOWERS. HE DISCUSSED
NEW BDG'S HOPE FOR RECONCILIATION WITH PAKISTAN AND CON-
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 197340

TINUED GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA. ATHERTON REITERATED
USG'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE NORMAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING
ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH BDG. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR ALI'S PRESENTATION FOLLOWED SAME THEMES OUTLINED BY FAKHRUDDIN AHMED (REFTEL). AFTER DESCRIPTION OF INADEQUACIES OF MUJIB'S ADMINISTRATION, HE EXPRESSED HIS REGRET OVER NECESSITY FOR KILLING MUJIB, WHILE REPEATING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIS DEATH. DRAWING ON HIS CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH NEW

PRESIDENT KHONDAKAR MUSHTAQUE AHMED DURING 1971 IN CALCUTTA, HE DESCRIBED HIM AS "PIOUS, HONEST AND STRAIGHTFORWARD."

3. IN DISCUSSING NEW BDG'S FOREIGN RELATIONS, ALI STATED THAT HE WISHED TO INFORM US OF BANGLADESH'S INTENTION TO ADHERE TO PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE GOVERNED ITS FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF UN CHARTER AND FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. WHILE BDG WILL CONTINUE NON-ALIGNED POLICY, IT WILL, HOWEVER, PLACE EMPHASIS ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL GREAT POWERS. HE DID NOT ELABORATE, BUT REMARKED, "YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS." (WE UNDERSTOOD THIS TO REFER TO LESSENING OF SOVIET IMPORTANCE.)

4. IN SPEAKING OF SUBCONTINENT, ALI STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS AMONG VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE AREA. SPECIFICALLY, IT HOPES THAT SOME OF PROBLEMS WITH PAKISTAN CAN BE SOLVED. BANGLADESH, SURROUNDED BY INDIA, WILL SEEK GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBOR. BANGLADESH WILL OF

COURSE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE.

5. IN REPLY, MR. ATHERTON SPOKE OF THE USG'S REGRET AT DEATH OF MUJIB AND HIS FAMILY, AND STRESSED THAT USG INTENDS TO CONTINUE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH. WE WELCOME NEW BDG'S REITERATION OF ITS INTENTION TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION IN THE SUBCONTIN-
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 197340

ENT. OUR EMBASSY IN DACCA HAS RESPONDED TO THE BDG'S NOTE, AND OUR AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAINTAIN NORMAL CONTACTS. AMBASSADOR ALI ASKED ABOUT ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AND MR. ATHERTON INFORMED HIM THAT ECONOMIC COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE. BOTH AGREED THAT A SPEEDY CONCLUSION OF PL 480 NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE DESIRABLE. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED INTEREST OF EARLIER GOVERNMENT IN LARGE TITLE II PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED HOPE THIS WOULD BE FEASIBLE. MR. ATHERTON SAID WE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS QUESTION.

6. AMBASSADOR ALI SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN ASKED TO REMAIN
AT HIS POST UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. HE PLANS TO
ATTEND THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING IN
GUYANA AUGUST 26-30 AS HEAD OF BANGLADESH DELEGATION.
KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE197340
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/PAB:AEGRIFIN:MRC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750286-1186
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197508101/baaaasmm.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971009
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, BG, PFOR, (HOSSAIN, ALI)
To: DACCA INFO NEW DELHI
ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006